

PRICE 1d.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page12247669>

Russia to be Attacked Through Poland.
But Poland has now become the chief

INTERNATIONAL

News and Notes.

China and Russia.

The possibility of China entering into friendly relations with Soviet Russia, overshadowed with the continued defeat of Kulebakh, is strengthening with his complete failure. The council of ministers at Peking expects that Kulebakh will be forced to retire as far as Harbin, and Japan cannot reinforce his troops without the consent of the United States.

Italy.

ROME.—A move by the Nitti government to gain the support of the Socialists against the D'Annunzio forces, whom they suspect of fomenting a nationalist revolt, was seen in the prosecution of Benito Mussolini, political leader of the D'Annunzio group.

Mussolini was arrested for responsibility in the attack on Milan Socialists celebrating their victory. With him were associated the Arditi white guards. The group is accused of collecting arms and attempting to stir up a revolt against the Nitti government and the Socialists.

Feeling their own power diminishing, the Nitti group are trying in this and many other ways to form an entente cordiale with the Socialists, without any success.

A Socialist Peace Conference.

According to a Rome message to "Le Populaire," the E.C. of the Italian Socialist Party, which recently met at Florence, decided to invite the Socialist Deputies of Jugo-Slavia to discuss with the Italian Socialists (including those of Trentino, not yet represented in Parliament), all the national problems independently of nationalist prejudices, and from an exclusively international point of view. The solution worked out at the conference will be submitted to the Powers.

"Avanti!"

From "L'Humanite," quoting the "Droit du Peuple" of Lausanne, we learn that, in an interview with the cor-

respondent, Serrati, gives the following figures for the progress of "Avanti!"—In 1916, 16,000 copies; in 1918, 130,000 copies; at the present time, 350,000 copies (200,000 printed in the Milan edition, 80,000 at Turin, and 70,000 at Rome).

GREECE.

Plato the Revolutionary.

"La Feuille" states that the Socialist Deputy Sideris, demanding in the Greek Chamber the abolition of the censorship and of the courts-martial, brought the following facts to the notice of Parliament:—At Drama, the secretary of the Trades' Council has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, because, in the course of a raid on his house, the police found three books which they decided were "revolutionary." The three books were Plato's "Republic," Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables," and Oscar Wilde's "De Profundis."

RUSSIA.

Lenin on the Present Situation.

In accordance with the decisions of the last All-Russian Soviet Congress the Central Executive Committee now meets in regular session as a legislative body not less than once in two months. At the first meeting under the new regulations held at the Kremlin recently with Kalinin in the chair, Lenin made a report on the international situation on the policy of the Council of People's Commissaries, and on the work of the Standing Committee of the C.E.C. He signalled first of all the decision of the Allies to raise the blockade, in consequence of the brilliant victories of the Red Army, as the entry of a new era in the history of the Soviet Republic. The peace just concluded with Estonia, a bourgeois State under the pressure of capitalism from all sides, points to the same conclusion. The Allies have fallen back upon Poland; the Soviet Government has sent peace proposals to the government of that country, which will be supplemented by a manifesto to the Polish workers. "We have against us the whole imperialist world; we have for us the interests of the majority of the peoples of the earth, and we shall see which will triumph."

The Caucasus and the East.

"As for the Caucasus, we proposed both to Georgia and to Azerbaijan to conclude a military entente against Denikin; but they refused to interfere in the internal affairs of other States. They have doubtless forgotten how they supported this same Denikin against Soviet Russia. We shall not have to wait long to find out what the workers of Georgia and Azerbaijan think."

"In our relations with the backward peoples of the East still under the yoke of fanaticism and full of distrust towards that Russia which, under the Tsardom, presented itself to their eyes as an oppressor, our policy must be one of tolerance. We have already an autonomous Bashkir republic, and we shall treat all the Eastern peoples in the same way."

The Death Penalty.

Lenin proceeded to discuss questions of internal policy, and the measures taken during the last two months (since the 7th Soviet Congress in December, 1919). Recalling the abolition of the death penalty, he said: "In this way we have definitely overthrown the bourgeois calumny that the Soviet Government is essentially terrorist. On the contrary, as soon as we gained a decisive victory, we renounced the death penalty without a day's delay. Nevertheless any attempt on the part of the Entente or of its Russian lackeys to resume their old policy of strangling the Soviet Republic will force us to reintroduce the Terror. We do not bind our hands. But our duty is to show that, once victory is achieved, we renounce all the exceptional laws which all the capitalist States are at the present moment applying in all their rigour."

Fusion of the Co-operatives.

In connection with the recent decree on the fusion of the Co-operative system

with the Soviet economic organisation, he said: "Socialism would be impossible if it did not employ all the organisation created by Capitalism, and especially the Co-operatives. But Co-operation, under the bourgeois regime, is in the service of the capitalists. We put it at the disposal of the whole population, and we are convinced that our ideal will be accepted by the majority of loyal co-operators, and that the whole of Soviet Russia will become one immense co-operative union of workers."

Economic Reconstruction.

Lenin reviewed the measures taken in the sphere of agriculture, and continued: "The war is not yet over, and we cannot weaken our military power. But at the same time we must adapt the military machine for the problems of peaceful reconstruction. The economic crisis can be settled, now that we hold Western Siberia and the Ukraine. It is essential, however, to bring to the large centres the greatest possible quantity of food."

"This root problem has taken place of the former single military aims, and to its solution all our military forces must be adapted. During the coming months we must elude out of the impasse at last, free ourselves once and for all from the transport, food, and fuel crises. We shall then possess a solid ground work on which to undertake vast industrial enterprises, and we shall prove to the whole population—and especially to the peasants—that we have a gigantic economic plan, based on the results of technical research."

The Central Executive Committee unanimously approved all the measures taken by the Council of People's Commissaries in the fields of internal and external policy. It was at this session that Radek, recently returned from Berlin, and made a report on conditions in Western Europe.

Why the Workers Support the Revolution

"La Vie Ouvriere" of February 13th states that the Moscow Soviet has decided on the installation of electricity for fighting and industrial purposes in all the villages of the Moscow province. The installation will be carried out by the Revolutionary Army of Labour.

—"The Call," Eng.

LONDON.—The Bolsheviks, insisting on full publicity in their peace negotiations with Estonia, sent a shorthand report of their recent conference to the hotel, where the foreign correspondents were assembled. Griffin Barry, staff correspondent of The London Daily Herald, who was at Dorpat during the negotiations, gives an account, part of which follows:—

"This document gives the armistice proposal drawn up by the Moscow war council. The frontier which it draws up is a provisional one, to last only during the armistice until peace is concluded with all the Soviet enemies."

The Estonians have objected that this frontier does not conform exactly with their national boundaries. But I must say that it approximates so closely to the original Estonian demands, and, indeed, to the Estonian boundaries as drawn on maps which I have bought in Estonian shops, that further difficulty is scarcely to be anticipated in this respect.

Estonia can, if she will, make these frontiers permanent at the peace. But if she is dissatisfied, and desires a plebiscite, the Bolsheviks agree to such a plebiscite, two years after the end of the civil war in Russia, insisting at the same time that the plebiscite zone should include the wide strip skirting from the Gulf of Finland to the West Narva river up to Wlenberg.

Contrary to the information published abroad, the Soviets are not at this juncture expecting to arrange economic relations, including a commercial convention, with Estonia, although this was their hope when they came to Dorpat. The difficulty is that Estonia insists that she cannot act in this direction without the consent of the allies, who are putting perpetual pressure upon this "independent" country. The Soviets are so confident of the outcome of their present problems, that they are willing to wait for their commercial outlet until the big powers show readiness to deal with them."

ECONOMIC CLASS.

Members and supporters are urged to attend the Economic class, which is held in the A.S.P. Hall, Liverpool Street, EVERY MONDAY EVENING, AT 8 P.M.

Emancipation of Women

By N. LENIN.

In the course of the last ten years there was not one democratic party in the world, or one statesman of the bourgeois republics, who undertook in the cause of the emancipation of woman, a hundredth part of what has been done in twelve months in Russia. All the humiliating laws that narrowed woman's rights have been abolished. For example, those which put obstacles in the way of divorce, and the disgusting formalities which had to be proceeded with in order to ascertain paternity in connection with "illegitimate" children. These are laws in force in all civilised states, to the disgrace of the bourgeois and of capitalism. We have the right to be proud of our progress in this sphere. But, in proportion as we sapped the foundations of bourgeois laws and institutions, we arrived at a more and more clear vision of the preparatory nature of our work, destined as it was solely for the preparation of the ground on which to build the new edifice.

We have not yet begun the construction of that edifice.

Woman remains, in spite of all, the slave of the home. Emancipatory laws are of no avail in that respect, since she remains subjected to all the little duties about the house which chain her to the kitchen and the nursery, and exhaust her primitive and unproductive activity in a series of oppressive and degrading petty tortures.

The true emancipation of woman, true communism, will not exist until the proletariat, taking the reins in hand, organises the struggle against domestic slavery. In other words, until society has been entirely reconstructed, with a general and Socialist organisation of house-keeping.

The practical realisation of the programme has begun, and, though the results are as yet scarcely apparent, we must not underestimate these first spring shoots. Communal restaurants and the children's gardens are, in their way, new off-shoots very far yet from maturity; but they contain the possibility of growing, with experience, into the emancipation of woman, thanks to the suppression of her inequality, as compared with man, in the domain of social production and life.

These methods are not new. Like all the measures of socialism, they have been organised for us, in general, by capitalism. But under the capitalist regime they only constituted an exception. Still more, they offered the most pitiful spectacles of speculation, greed, and fraud. Or else they became transformed into those bourgeois charitable institutions which are so justly hated and despised by the best elements of the proletariat.

We have taken in hand the majority of these institutions, and they are beginning to lose their former character.

We do not cry it in the streets, in contrast with the bourgeoisie, who are so skilled in celebrating the merits of their institutions. In contrast with the millionaire bourgeois press, which boasts its undertakings as deserving to swell the national pride, our newspapers do not spend their time in singing the praises of our people's kitchens.

It is none the less true that they are founded on the following principles: economy of labor, control of foodstuffs, amelioration of sanitary conditions, and the liberation of woman from domestic slavery.

S. L. P. RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was carried by the Wollongong and also the Auburn S. L. P., and forwarded to us for publication:—

"Resolved—That this branch strongly protests against the party organ being used as a medium to conduct what appears to be a personal quarrel between Comrades Reardon, Everitt, Judd and Emmett; also that we express our belief that the difference of principle between the A.S.P. and S.L.P. is imaginary or trifling, and that many unattached Socialists are kept out of organised activity because of the ridiculous wrangling in the papers of our respective organisations."

The C. E. of the A. S. P. think it advisable that the two branches mentioned, read and compare the principles of the two parties, and, above all, compare the manifestoes, as these are the interpretation of principles, and to supplement this procedure with a careful reading of the "Judd-Reardon Debate."

Allied Imperialism the Obstacle to Peace.

The working people of Russia offer no menace to any country, for they recognise the self-determination of all nations. Indeed, the fact that the workers and peasants are in power in Russia is the only effective guarantee of the inviolable independence of the nationalities included in the former Tsarist Empire. This is understood not only by the masses, but also by the many, even in the ruling circles of these countries, who realise the actual situation. The only obstacle to the advent of peace and to the cessation of the innumerable sufferings and distress of the laboring masses of Russia, of its neighboring countries, indeed, of all Europe, is the reactionary and imperialist policy of the Allied Governments.

Workers of the Allied countries, it is up to you to put a stop to this policy!

—The "Call," England.

CORRECTION

In Last Weeks Issue we Advertised at 2/- per copy, the correct price being 2/6. As the fault lay with us, those from whom we received 2/- will secure their copy at that price

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Report of the Executive of the N.S.W. Labour Council, on Teesdale Smith Profit Sharing Scheme

This Executive having carefully perused the Scheme presented by Mr. Teesdale Smith for "profit sharing" with his employees, recommends to the Unions concerned its rejection on the following grounds:—

1. The fundamental principle of profit-sharing is wrong, inasmuch that all wealth, being produced by labor applied to raw materials, such wealth is the rightful property in its entirety of those who produce it, and to voluntarily contract to hand over any portion of that wealth to the non-producing class is robbery.

2. All economists admit that what is termed the "iron law of wages" operates in the direction of constantly pressing wages down to the bare subsistence level. If, therefore, as in the scheme under consideration, the wages are to be fixed by Arbitration, any profits which might be gained by the workers employed will ultimately cause the current wage to be lowered proportionately and the gain to the workers would be largely illusory.

3. In practice nearly all profit sharing schemes so far as they temporarily benefited small sections of the working class, have had the effect of paralysing their activities, destroying their solidarity, breaking up their Unions and rendering them the servile supporters of the Capitalist Exploiters.

4. In regard to the details of the Teesdale Smith scheme it will be found that the interests of Mr. Smith have been amply safe-guarded in every direction. Under clause 3 the Employee is to be "guaranteed against lost time," not by the employer, out of the profits, but by a deduction of seven per cent. from all "wages and allowances." Clearly this does nothing but equalise wages over the whole period of employment by stopping the money earned when working, to hand it over at some future time when work is stopped by wet weather or other cause. This is exactly cutting a piece off one end of a blanket to sew it on the other, and as a specimen of compulsory "thrift" its absurdity is only equalled by its impudence.

5. In clause 4 it is provided that there shall be a canteen established for the supply of meals, the job finding kitchen, mess-room and equipment, cook, manager and sleeping quarters. "It will be noted that it is 'the job,'" otherwise the men themselves which provide all these conveniences, which will be charged up as "expenses" as indicated in clause 6.

This could be done by co-operation among the men if deemed desirable without any system of profit sharing.

6. In clause 7, it is provided that 25 per cent. of the profit go to the workers, 25 per cent. to the staff, and 25 per cent. to the employer.

This allocation must necessarily result

in a tremendous amount of speeding-up on the most scientific and ruthless principles. Although the employer is paid one per cent. for his work of supervision both he, his staff and the men themselves are spurred on in the work of speeding-up by the hope of greater profits which is tantamount to the men supervising themselves and each other. The natural effect must be to do more work in the same time with fewer hands and thus it may easily result that the 25 per cent. taken by the employer may be as much or more than the whole 100 per cent. he now appropriates. It must be obvious that if it would have a double effect, it would be to increase the profits of the employer and at the same time gain favor with the boss.

The effect on the wage-earners must be to exhaust them physically and mentally, and by cutting down the number employed to the lowest possible minimum, thereby throwing their fellow-workers on to the industrial scrap-heap. The fostering of greed on the one hand and resentment on the other must lead to bitterness and disunion in the ranks of the working-class and the intensification of the worst evils of the Capitalist system of production for profits.

7. In clause 6 it is provided that interest at bank rates on the capital employed as well as on all rates taxed, and every kind of expenditure will be charged against the job. As the employer or his representative will be the sole manager of the work it is clear that no effective check can be kept by the men employed either on the amount of capital on which interest will be charged or upon the method of its expenditure. Even the bosses' motor-rides and the up-keep of his cars, and the entertainment of distinguished visitors will all figure as "expenses" of the job. These plus one per cent., plus interest on rates and taxes, plus 25 per cent. at the wind-up-plus proceeds of said plant should put Mr. Teesdale Smith on a remarkably good wicket.

It may be added that as employees may

leave or be dismissed at an hour's notice the constant changes of personnel must involve a large amount of book-keeping which will also be charged up as "expenses" of the job.

Summing up, your Executive is strongly of opinion that the whole system of profit sharing is inimical to working-class interests. While it may temporarily benefit small sections, it can only do so at the expense of the remainder.

While it does not prohibit unionism or combination among the workers, it renders such combination futile and impotent and must cause their rapid disintegration and decline.

Instead of promoting class solidarity it will breed discord and bitterness among the workers by speeding up production

thereby more firmly fastening the shackles of economic servitude upon the wage-slaves and delaying the hour of their emancipation.

Just as far as society obtains the domination of the social means of production in order to organise them socially it abolishes the existing servitude of man to his own means of production. Society cannot be free without every member of society being free. The old methods of production must be completely revolutionised and the old form of the division of labour must be done away with above all. In its place an organisation of production will have to be made in which, on the one hand, no single individual will be able to shift his share in productive labor, in providing the essentials of human existence, upon another, and on the other hand, productive labor instead of being a means of slavery will be a means towards human freedom, in that it offers an opportunity to everyone to develop his full powers, physical and intellectual, in every direction and to exercise them so that it makes a pleasure out of a burden.—Engels.

Judd-Reardon Debate

The above Debate is now on the press, and will be available in pamphlet form next week, price 6d, posted 7d.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

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